

**Sea Research Foundation  
Mystic Aquarium – Ocean Exploration Center – JASON Learning**

**Testimony Before the Committee on Energy and Technology of the Connecticut State Legislature**

**H.B. No. 6402, AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS**

**February 21, 2013**

Good afternoon, Representative Reed, Senator Duff and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Peter Glankoff and I am Executive Vice President of Sea Research Foundation which operates Mystic Aquarium, Ocean Exploration Center and JASON Learning. Mystic Aquarium is Connecticut's largest cultural attraction welcoming nearly 750,000 visitors annually. Our Ocean Exploration Center, headed by world-renowned deep ocean scientist-explorer Dr. Robert Ballard, is a research and exhibition center currently featuring *Titanic – 12,450 Feet Below* bringing to life Dr. Ballard's remarkable discovery in 1985 of the legendary ocean liner's final resting place. Through our JASON Learning division, Sea Research Foundation brings standards-based STEM curricular and after school educational experiences to classrooms, cultural institutions and community center such as Boys & Girls Clubs, currently engaging about two million students nationally and internationally in inquiry-directed learning.

As an organization dedicated to research, education, conservation and exploration, with an overarching commitment to readying young people for careers in science, technology engineering and math, we come before you today in support of House Bill No. 6402 and efforts to modernize Connecticut's telecommunications laws.

Technology is at the heart of what Sea Research Foundation is all about, and we increasingly rely on 21<sup>st</sup> century Internet Protocol (IP) networks to deliver educational programs to end-users. There are many examples throughout our organization of how technology plays a vital role in delivering programs to visitors, students and lifetime learners. Our Nautilus Live Theater connects visitors to our Aquarium and Ocean Exploration Center via live satellite feed to Dr. Ballard's E/V *Nautilus* ship of exploration while she is at sea. Visitors can interact with crew members in the theater and follow the expeditions in real time. When they leave the theater, they can visit [NautilusLive.org](http://NautilusLive.org) 24/7 on their tablet, smartphone or home computer and continue following the voyage and interacting with crew members.

We are preparing the way at Mystic Aquarium for visitors to experience web-based, self-guided tours using their smartphones, with the ability to instantaneously access unlimited information about the animals and habitats they are seeing during their visit.

JASON Learning is the definitive STEM-based science and technology based education system for middle and high school students. This innovative and powerful web-based program is currently being implemented across the country and overseas. Sea Research Foundation is making a major commitment to helping develop STEM learning in Connecticut through implementation of this internationally recognized program throughout the state's schools.

Technology is a key dependency enabling Sea Research Foundation to fulfill its mission of inspiring people to care about and protect our ocean planet. We strongly urge the passage of H.B. 6402 so that modernization of telecommunications laws will remove impediments to developing new channels of communication and ensuring a better educated population.

Thank you.

Peter Glankoff  
Executive Vice President  
Sea Research Foundation